A RELATION OF THE BATTELL

Fought by the Forces of the

KING and PARLIAMENT,

The Marquis of *Ormond* being GENERALL, and the Lord Vicount LISLE Lieutenant Generall of the Horse,

Against the bloody Rebels in *Ireland* neer *Old Rosse*, and not far from *Doncannon* in the Year 1642.

WRITTEN BY

Sir FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY Knight, Major Generall of the Army, and one of the most Honorable Privie Counsell in *Ireland*.

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I Having heard ſeverall diſcourſes and opinions ſince my being in *England* concerning the Battell fought neer unto old *Roſſe* in *Ireland*, between our Army commanded by the now Lord Marquis of *Ormond* as Generall, my Lord *Liſle* Lieutenant Generall of the Horſe, my ſelf being Major Generall; by which diſcourſes, and variety of opinions, I find that many are miſtaken in the truth thereof. So as I having by me ſome collections, as alſo the manner and form of the Battell, I have thought fit according to my beſt knowledge to ſet down the paſſages of that ſervice as neer as I can: which is as followeth.

Our preſent wants being ſo great at *Dublin* at that time, as the then Lords Juſtices, *viz:* Sir *William Parſons*, and Sir *John Borlerie* Knights, could find no means to ſupport the great charge of our Army: no ſupplies coming out of *England* for our relief at that time, and the Souldiers in great want. The Lord *Liſle* Lieutenant Generall of the Horſe, was pleaſed to propound a journey in hope to gain a livelihood abroad in the Enemies quarters, for the better ſubſiſtance of the Army, which after mature deliberation had at the Counſell Table it was reſolved on; and that accordingly the Lord *Liſle* ſhould go. And for the better enabling of our Armie to march, and for furthering that deſigne, moſt of the Counſell did lend good ſummes of money (and ſome melted their Plate) or gave it in to be melted for that ſervice: which moneys ſo lent was accordingly received, and iſſued unto the Officers, upon my own knowledge, I being appointed both to receive it, and to pay it out by order of the Counſell Table: all things being in a readineſſe for the journey, but whither intended unknown to me. The now Lord Marquis of *Ormond*, our then Generall, was pleaſed to ſignifie unto the Lords Juſtices and Counſell that if the Army went forth his Lordſhip would go along with it himſelf, and did ſo, taking order that a Ship ſhould be ſent about unto Duncannon Fort, with a ſupply of Biſket and provi-

ſion if need ſhould be; giving unto Sir *Philip Perſeval* Commiſſary Generall of the victuals, fourty pounds for the hire of the Ship ſo imployed: and when our Army came neer unto Carlot Caſtle, it was drawn into battalia, and a Counſell of Warre called, and there reſolved on, that we ſhould march unto *Roſſe* to beſiege, and to take it in. And coming before the Town we quartered there, and the ſecond day we planted our Ordnance for battery, which were two Demy Culverins: the next day the Enemy put over into the Town two thouſand men, there being but two Companies in before: which ſupply putting in, it was not poſſible for us to hinder, they being on the contrary ſide the River to us. But notwithſtanding that ſupply ſo put in, we proceeded with our battery and made a breach, which we aſſaulted with certain of our Forces choſen out for that purpoſe: Sir *Fowlk Hunks*, and Major *Morris* having the command and full management of that ſervice; Major *Morris* being there dangerouſly hurt in the Aſſault, and brought off, and by reaſon of the multitude of the defenders, who had ſtopt the breach with wooll-packs, and feather-beds, and other proviſions, ſo as we could do no good in it. I had order from the Lord Generall to draw them off, which I accordingly did, in which ſervice we loſt ſome few men; the weather being extreame ill was a great hindrance to our proceedings. For during the time we were before the Town of *Roſſe*, we had ſcarce a fair day in fourteen, which was the time, according to my beſt remembrance, that we ſtayed.

During which time, we lived in daily hopes of the coming of our Ship with proviſions, which failed by contrary winds, and never came unto us; inſomuch as our ſtore being exhauſted, and ſpent, my Lord Generall imployed Sir *Thomas Armſtrong* to the Lord *Eſmond*, governor of Duncannon Fort, to ſee with what proviſions his Lordſhip could furniſh us with: who ſent unto the relief of our Army ten thouſand weight of Bisket, being all he could ſpare us as he alledged; and withall commanded two Barks or Veſſels to fall down to *Roſſe*, that then lay by the Fort, which Veſſels ſhot many ſhot into the Town, much annoying the Enemy. But the Enemy drew a piece of Ordnance to the other ſide of the water, with which they ſo battered the ſhips lying at ancher, that the Mariners were forced to forſake their ſhips, and

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to bore holes in them to ſink them, by reaſon they could not get off their ſhips again, the winde being contrary, and ill weather: and that being done, the Sea-men came into our quarter, and ſtayed with our Army where they did very good ſervice.

We had not lain long before *Roſſe* before we were informed of the approach of the Army of the Enemy, under the command of Generall *Preſton*, and Collonel *Cullin* their Lieutenant Generall; who at laſt came and quartered within a league of us, which hindred our Horſe from forraging abroad, they being, as we were informed, neer upon ſeven thouſand ſtrong Horſe and Foot, with the Forces that were in *Roſſe*, which preſently joyned with them after our remove from the Town. Which remove of ours was cauſed through want of proviſions for our Army, not having above three dayes bread for the Souldiers, and being above threeſcore miles from *Dublin*, having a powerfull Army attending on us. We raiſing our ſiege, the Army of the Enemy withdrew further off to a wood and a bogge, where the Forces in *Roſſe* came to them. That night we retyred from *Roſſe*, we quartered about ſix miles from *Roſſe*, and within two miles of old *Roſſe* upon an Heath, from whence we might and did diſcover where the Enemie quartered. The next morning we marched towards the Enemie, who relying upon his ſtrength, being two thouſand more by report then our Army was, he forſook the woods and boggs, and met us in the plain field, having a bogge behinde him. We coming neer unto them, my Lord Generall of our Army gave me direction to draw into battalia, which accordingly I did, and cauſed our Ordnance to be planted: that being done, the Lord *Liſle* appointed ſome Horſe to go to diſcover the Army of the Enemy, and how they lay. Againſt which the Enemy ſent out a greater number of their Horſe, ſo as our Horſe retyred back to us again in good order; the Enemy following them, and at a far diſtance fired upon their arrear, but did no hurt, and ſo returned again into their quarters; a ſmall riſing ground being between their Army and ours, my Lord Generall called me to him, ſaying, If we could get to that high peece of ground and poſſeſſe it, it might much advantage us in that dayes ſervice, for we ſhould have the Sun and the winde with us, and alſo plainly ſee the Enemies motions, and how they ſtood in battalia. Whereupon I cauſed the

Army

Army to march in full battalia and poſſeſt that ground, the whole Army of the Enemy ſtanding before us in a plain not a Musket ſhot from us; their Horſe being in a great lane or highway, ready to have iſſued out upon us. Whereupon I diſpoſed of our forlorn hope of Musketiers commanded that day by Captain *Atkins*, along a ditch ſide that was betwixt our Army and the Enemies, with direction to the Captain to ply his Musketiers in continuall playing upon the battalions of the Enemy, which lay within Musket ſhot of us. In the mean time I cauſed the Ordnance to be planted in the moſt advantagious places, and planted the two Demy Culverins in the mouth of the Lane where the Enemies horſe ſtood; where with the two firſt ſhot that were made amongſt them, our Ordnance ſlue at leaſt threeſcore horſe and men, inſomuch as the Enemies horſe would not endure the ſecond charge, nor ſtay the diſcharging any more in that place, but haſtned into the field on their left hand, where ranging their men anew.

I ſaw the Lord *Liſle* Lieutenant Generall of the *Horſe*, and Sir *Thomas Lucas* Commiſſary Generall of our Horſe, preparing all our Horſe ready to charge the Enemies Horſe, our Ordnance continually beating upon the Enemies Forces, the Enemy having no Ordnance in the field that day, which was no ſmall happineſſe to us as I conceived. Our horſe being ready with their ſwords drawn and in their bridle hands, their Piſtols in the other hand. I ſaw the *Lord Liſle* with the horſe paſſe over a ditch into the plain where the Enemies horſe were; and I ſaw our horſe and the Enemies horſe charge each other; and I ſaw Piſtols go off and diſcharged at each other: and while I was otherwiſe imployed that day in the Army of the Foot, the Enemies horſe and ours paſſed by on the right hand of our battery, hewing and ſlaſhing each other; and being ſo paſt by the right hand of our Army, a ſudden ſtand was made by them for a little while, but were ſtill in action exchanging blows with each other; which ſtand ſo made, as I was after informed, was cauſed by a ſhot the Lord *Liſle* his horſe had in his knee, and the fall of Sir *Thomas Lucas* his horſe with him, who was dangerouſly hurt in his head, before he could be recovered; and being recovered, I ſaw all the horſe purſuing each other toward the place where our waggons and carriages

ſtood.

ſtood. And as I was after informed, our Horſe had there a ſtrong encounter with the Horſe of the Rebels; in which conflict divers priſoners of the Enemy were taken, and amongſt them Collonel *Cullin* their Lieutenant Generall, unto whom quarter was given, and after, by order of the Lord Generall, committed unto my charge and ſafe keeping; of whom I took charge, and kept him ſafe untill I brought him to the Caſtle of *Dublin* (my then government) where I delivered the ſaid Collonel *Cullin* into the hands of the then Lords Juſtices, *viz:* Sir *William Parſons*, and Sir *John Borlacie*, and in regard of my other imployments that day amongſt the Foot, I was no eye-witneſſe of what was further done betwixt them: onely I heard that our Horſe had the better of the Enemies horſe, and that the Enemies fled and were routed; and certain I am, that the Horſe of the Enemy never returned to the Army of their Foot that day any more, ſo long as we were in ſight with them, the day of the battell.

Over which Army of the Rebels Foot, although much ſtronger then ours in number, it pleaſed God (in the abſence of both ours and the Enemies Horſe) to give us an happie victory, our Ordnance doing us very good ſervice that day. In which ſervice and victory the Enemy loſt many of their prime gentlemen of their Countrey that day; the reſt that ſcaped fled over the bogge, and rallied again on a hill on the other ſide of a bogge, and hard by a wood ſide where part of our Army following of them, they inſtantly ran into the wood, leaving all their ammunition and baggage behinde them which we took; and the Enemy never left marching till they got over the Barrow a River, where being over, they broke down the Bridge, fearing our Army ſhould purſue them, which as I conceived was a ſecond happie victory, in regard our Army with our Ordnance and many Carriages was to paſſe through many great ſtraights, woods, and ſtony and rockie paſſages, which having no hindrances but the illneſſe of the wayes, we had enough to do to make our paſſage through them; and had the Rebels intercepted us upon thoſe paſſages, certain I am he would have endangered our Army, we having not above two dayes bread or ſcarce ſo much; and by being hindred or retarded in our journey, we ſhould through want have been in danger to be loſt. All our Horſe as ſoon as the victory was gained

over

over the Foot of the Enemy (or in a little time after) the Enemies Horſe being fled, came to us, and quartered by us; my Lord Generall and my Lord *Liſle* after viewing the dead bodies, and giving order to the Pioneers to bury them, quartered in the place or field where the Enemy was overthrown. The next day to my beſt knowledge our Army marched homewards toward *Dublin* without ſeeing any Enemy more in all our journey, but what we ſaw marching on the other ſide of the River the Barrow toward *Kilkennie*; and in our way homeward we burnt and ſpoyled the Enemies Countrey. And this being as neer as my obſervation taken, and my beſt memory can inform me, I ſhall conclude, that I hope this may ſatisfie the unſatisfied.

Sir *Francis Willoughby* having imparted unto us this above-written Diſcourſe, we do teſtifie that it doth agree to our beſt remembrance with ſuch Relations as were brought unto us at the Councell Board from ſeverall Officers and others, of the actions of that Army after they parted from us at *Dublin*, untill they returned thither again.

William Parſons. *John Temple.*

Adam Loftus. *R. Meredith.*

FINIS.